

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS:MBENEFIEL

APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:LMNAKATSU

COMM/NOAA/NMFS:MMILLER 634-7360

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, US

SUBJECT: TANNER CRAB PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN ALASKAN  
PRODUCT AND JAPANESE FACTORYSHIP PRODUCT

1. THE ECONOMIC AND MARKETING RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REQUESTS EMBASSY  
ASSISTANCE IN ANSWERING CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING  
THE MARKET VALUE OF TANNER CRAB. THE INFORMATION IS  
NEEDED FOR BACKGROUND TO UPCOMING BILATERAL FISHERY  
NEGOTIATIONS. THE FOLLOWING DATA WERE REQUESTED:

2. CURRENT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MARKET PRICES FOR TANNER  
CRAB CAUGHT BY U.S. FISHERMEN, LANDED, AND PROCESSED IN  
U.S. PORTS AND THEN EXPORTED TO JAPAN IN FROZEN SECTIONS.

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3. CURRENT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MARKET PRICES FOR TANNER

CRAB CAUGHT BY JAPANESE FISHERMEN IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA, PROCESSED ABOARD JAPANESE MOTHERSHIPS AND LANDED IN JAPAN AS SHRINK-PACKED FROZEN SECTIONS.

4. SIMILAR INFORMATION, IF AVAILABLE, FOR TANNER CRABS CAUGHT IN THE WESTERN BERING SEA (ON SOVIET CONTINENTAL SHELF).

5. EXPLANATION FOR DIFFERENCE IN PRICES OF 2,3, AND 4 ABOVE.

6. HISTORY OF TANNER CRAB PRICES FOR 1975 AND 1976 FACTORYSHIP SEASONS, REFLECTING THE BREAKDOWN BY ORIGIN AS SPECIFIED IN 2,3 AND 4.

7. THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF JAPANESE FIRMS PURCHASING U.S.-CAUGHT AND PROCESSED TANNER CRAB.

8. MRS. SUNEE SONU OF CALIFORNIA REGIONAL NMFS OFFICE HAS SUPPLIED PRICES FOR "KOYO SHRINK-PACKED TANNER CRABS, SIZE 3L" TAKEN FROM NIKKAN SHOKURYO SHIMBUN FOR JUNE 22 AND 29, 1976. EMBASSY APPRAISAL OF THE RELIABILITY OF THIS JAPANESE PUBLICATION IN GENERAL, AND OF THE PRICE INFORMATION GIVEN IN PARTICULAR, IS REQUESTED.

9. AS INFORMATION IS REQUESTED IN RESPONSE TO SENATE INQUIRY AND NMFS IS WORKING UNDER A SHORT DEADLINE, A REPLY BY JULY 22 IS REQUESTED. IF REPLY IS INCOMPLETE, INDICATE DATE WHEN REMAINING INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE. IF REPLY IS NEGATIVE, PLEASE SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE LINE OF APPROACH. KISSINGER

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